

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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A services provisioning mechanism is provided for a service gateway connecting at least one local client to an external network. The service provisioning mechanism includes a number of functions. A resolver is provided for responding to a request from a requestor for a service to determine whether a requested service is provided by the service

- 10 gateway. A negotiator is provided for responding to an indication from the resolver that a requested service is not provided by the service gateway to query an external source for identifying a further service for attempting to satisfy the service request. A response engine is provided for processing information provided by the external source in response to the negotiator query. Services provided by the service gateway can be
- 15 determined from a registry of services registered at the service gateway. The external source can be a service provider or a service gateway organizer. Different response engines are configured to deal with different messaging protocols that may be used by the service providers and/or the service gateway organizer. The provision of functions for resolving a request, negotiating information and processing the information can each
- 20 be provided as separate services registered with the service gateway. This modular approach enables the provisioning of services in a flexible and extensible manner.